

MEXICANS FIRE ON U. S. TROOPS GUARDING LINE

American Border Patrol Returns Shots, Killing Carranza Soldier in Fight.

MEXICO SENT PROTEST

Tax on Petroleum Raised, Affecting Oil Supply, on Which Great Britain Largely Depends.

El Paso, Tex., April 19.—Carranza soldiers openly fired on American border patrols in the western part of El Paso this evening. The fire was returned by a detachment of the Twentieth U. S. Infantry. One Carranza soldier was killed.

Brig. Gen. George Bell, Jr., in command at El Paso, immediately sent a strong protest to the Mexican military authorities through Mexican Consul Sereno Bravo. At the same time orders were issued to the American troops to shoot to kill when attacked by Mexican troops.

MEXICANS FIRST TO FIRE.

Investigation made by Gen. Bell and Federal agents established the fact that the Mexicans were the first to open fire and that they aimed their shots directly at an American sentry. He rushed to cover at the first shots, and this alone saved his life, as the bullets plowed up the ground where he had been standing.

The Mexican papers controlled by Carranza continue to attack America and to extol Germany. El Heraldo del Norte, published in Chihuahua City, copies of which were received today by government agents, declare that Mexico intends to recover the debts she has held against the United States since the war of 1847.

Raise Petroleum Tax.

Receipt of official news, through the Mexican Embassy here, that President-elect Carranza had increased the export duties on petroleum and its products caused considerable concern in the State Department last night.

Just how far the new order goes officials have not yet learned. It was considered certain, however, that the export tax will be severe, and that the measure was adopted after the government had "convinced" the Mexicans that it would be "unwise" to declare an embargo on petroleum, as Carranza was reported to have arranged to do several weeks ago, as a substitute to hinder the British and American fleets from obtaining oil at Tampico when necessary.

A large part of Great Britain's oil supply for use on her latest type battleships comes from Mexico, and should the tax imposed be so heavy that a considerable increase in cost would result, this government probably will make an immediate protest.

Information as to the orders has been asked from Ambassador Fletcher in Mexico City.

Coming on the heels of announcement of the petroleum tax, news of the clash late yesterday at El Paso between Mexican and American forces caused concern here. While no information has been received, so far as is known, that the reported firing upon American soldiers was other than an isolated case of enmity, War Department officials viewed the reports as evidence that there was still smoldering a hatred of Americans among the Mexicans close to the border.

DISTRICT GUARDSMEN SWALLOW BICHLORIDE

J. Forrest Reilly Found in Doorway.

J. F. Thompson Walks Into Hospital.

J. Forrest Reilly, a private in Troop B, National Guard cavalry, was found huddled in a vestibule near his troop's recruiting station at 127 F street northwest yesterday afternoon in a semi-conscious condition. He was rushed to the Emergency Hospital, where he was treated for bichloride of mercury poisoning. Reilly is in a critical condition.

At 1:15 o'clock this morning, J. Ford Thompson, 40 years old, of the Arlington apartments, walked into Emergency Hospital, accompanied by a physician who gave the name of Thompson, and told the doctors that he had taken bichloride of mercury. He was given treatment, and at an early hour this morning it was stated his condition was not serious.

Thompson also was a member of Troop B, known as the "President's Own." The two Guardsmen were together early in the afternoon, and according to the police, swallowed the poison at the same time while in a saloon.

Acting on statements alleged to have been made to them by Reilly, the police posted a "lookout" for Thompson, and he was being sought at the time he walked into the hospital.

Reilly's relatives, over the telephone, said that if Reilly had swallowed poison it was by mistake.

BAKER TO ADDRESS CADETS.

Secretary of War Baker left here last night for West Point, N. Y., where he will address the graduating class of the United States Military Academy today.

The class, which ordinarily would have been graduated in June, was severely delayed by the war, and so that graduation could take place today and the cadets sent to regular army duty.

Births, Marriages and Deaths.

The Washington Herald is printing daily notices of births, marriages, and deaths among the people of Washington.

These notices appear today on page 12.

Descendant of Lafayette Would Serve in U. S. Army

Paris, April 19.—Comte Gilbert de Lafayette, a descendant of the famous French soldier who helped the Americans gain their independence, today wrote to the War Department in Washington for permission to join the United States army.

At present, Comte Lafayette is serving with the artillery branch of the French forces.

KING BASEBALL REIGNS SUPREME

Patriotic Program to Greet "Play Ball" for Griffen.

PROBABLE LINE-UP FOR TODAY'S GAME

Athletics.	Nationals.
Witt, ss.	Judge, 1b.
Lawry, 2b.	Post, 2b.
Bodie, 3b.	Witt, cf.
Strunk, cf.	Rice, rf.
Thrasher, rf.	Smith, lf.
McInnis, 1b.	Leonard, 3b.
Bates, 2b.	McBride, ss.
Schlang, c.	Albright, c.
Bush, p.	Gallia, p.
	Johnson, p.

Umpires, Dineen and Owens.
Game called at 3 o'clock.

King Baseball reigns today.

Thousands of Washingtonians who have been "on edge" for some time to get a glimpse of the fresh-splashed nine which will represent the Nation's Capital on the diamond this season will line up early this afternoon at the gateways of the Georgia avenue park. They will hear the crisp crack of bats, the inevitable hurrahs of vendors, the blare of the band, and they will be happy.

Properly, the ceremonies incident to the opening of the 1917 baseball season in this city will be tinged with a spirit of patriotism.

Clark Griffith has seen to it and it was learned last night that he has wired plans which will surpass even the ceremonies held on the opening day in Philadelphia.

There will be patriotic music. Not a tune here and there, but a grand melody. And to the strains, around the park will march regular United States soldiers.

Long before noon the advance brigade of those seeking general admission will flock to the park. Gates will be open at 1 o'clock. Practicing of the teams will start at 1:15 and continue until 2:30. At 2:45 Assistant Secretary of the Navy Franklin D. Roosevelt will raise a huge American flag on the large pole erected on the field.

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DITCH DRY DRIVE

Democrats, in Caucus, Put War Move Up to Wilson.

The question of nation-wide prohibition as a war measure was left in the hands of the President last night by the action of the Democratic caucus of the House of Representatives.

Efforts of the adherents of the prohibition propaganda were successful in the earlier deliberations of the assemblage, and on the motion of Representative William Schley Howard, of Georgia, the caucus voted, 87 to 90, in favor of Howard's own bill, wherein it was provided that the President be authorized to decree or proclaim prohibition of the manufacture or sale of all forms of alcoholic beverages for the period of the war.

Immediately following this action, twenty Democrats, led by Representative Daniel J. Rorand, of New York, and announced the appointment of the Tammany Hall group in Congress, renounced their obligation to be further bound by the caucus action and left the meeting.

Cabinet officers, burdened by war-time problems, are generally designated as "administrative assistants."

This department heads may be left free to devote their time chiefly to questions of national defense.

Secretary of War Baker last night announced that Mr. Keppel had been given the assignment of "advising and helping the Secretary in any way possible." He will serve the government at the nominal salary of \$1 a month. Mr. Keppel is a Republican lawyer and widely known in college circles.

Secretary of Agriculture Houston named R. A. Pearson, president of the Iowa State Agricultural College, as his chief assistant. Prof. Pearson has a country-wide reputation as an authority in agricultural matters.

Herald Sunday Sermon By Rev. D. H. Martin

The sermon in Sunday's Herald will be by the Rev. D. H. Martin, D. D., newly assigned pastor of the Wesley Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church, Fifth and F streets northwest.

Rev. Dr. Martin was born in Malone, N. Y. He received his degree from the St. John's College of Annapolis, Md., and was ordained a minister in 1902, assigned to a circuit in Harford County, Md., where he remained for one year.

Dr. Martin for the past three years has been the pastor of the Dunbarton Avenue Methodist Church here, but was transferred at the last session of the Baltimore Conference to the Wesley Chapel, where he has just taken up his new work.

The text of his sermon, written expressly for the Sunday Washington Herald, will be announced later.

"There has been definite improvement in Mrs. Bernhardt's condition during the past twenty-four hours,"

WILSON OPENS DRIVE TO PUSH DRAFT THROUGH

In Letter to Representative Helvering, President Urges Selective Conscription.

RAPS VOLUNTARY PLAN

Says that When Men Choose for Themselves They Frequently Disregard Other Responsibilities.

President Wilson yesterday opened his personal campaign to force the administration's selective draft bill through Congress.

The President declared that, all things considered, service with the army and navy was perhaps not the most vital thing necessary for successful prosecution of the war, and stated that only by selective draft can a large army and navy be built up without running the danger of taking away large numbers of men whom the country needs kept at their present vocations a great deal more than it needs them on the firing line.

In a public letter to Representative Helvering, of Kansas, the President says the volunteer system provides no way whatsoever to prevent men from leaving factories and farms in such large numbers that the nation would shortly be reduced to wretchedness.

May Choose Unwisely

"When men choose for themselves they sometimes choose without due regard to their other responsibilities," the President wrote. "The principle of selective draft, in short, has at its heart this idea—that there is a universal obligation to serve and that a public authority should choose those upon whom the obligation of military service shall rest, and also in a sense choose those who shall do the rest of the nation's work."

The letter is the first in a series of public appeals to be made by the President to prevent the United States from making the mistakes that so hampered the British armies at the beginning of the war. Just what the next step would be no one ventured to say last night. It is still considered probable, however, that the President will make a personal appeal for the army General Staff's selective draft bill on the floor of the House, where the greatest opposition has arisen, or at a special joint session of Congress.

President Determined.

The administration is determined to force the bill through Congress just as it was recommended by the General Staff, and President Wilson was said last night to have firmly and unalterably made up his mind that the bill must go through Congress unaltered and at once.

The President's letter to Representative Helvering follows:

"My dear Mr. Helvering: I welcome the inquiry of your letter of April 19, because I have realized the truth of what you say from my own observation, namely, that what is meant to be understood by the selective draft is not generally understood throughout the country.

"The process of the draft is, I think,

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PLAN FOR ENVOYS

Balfour and Staff Will Dine with Wilson After Arrival.

Arrangements were almost completed last night for the reception of the British commission headed by Premier Balfour. A program already has been laid out for conferences between the visiting officials and those of this government, but details must await the arrival of the British commissioners.

Shortly after his arrival Lord Balfour and several members of his staff will dine with President Wilson at the White House. The following evening dinners will be given by the Secretaries of State, War, Navy and Treasury. Each of the secretaries will have as his guest the members of the British mission with whom his department will have dealings. Mr. Lansing will have as his guest Mr. Balfour, and Mr. Baker will entertain Gen. Bridges. Mr. Daniels, Admiral de Chair, and Mr. McAdoo, Lord Cunliffe.

Home of Long Selected.

When he arrives in Washington Mr. Balfour will be met by the Secretary of State, the counselor of the Department of State, and other officials of the department. The home of Breckinridge Long, in Sixteenth street, has been obtained for him. Mr. Balfour's residence by detachments of United States cavalry. He will be accompanied by Mr. Lansing.

Quartered with Mr. Balfour in the Long residence will be members of his personal staff. The Union Jack will be flown over the building during Mr. Balfour's occupancy and the American and British flags will be draped on the facade of the building.

Other members of the mission will occupy suites at the Hamilton Hotel.

After the informal dinner with the four secretaries, Mr. Lansing will hold a reception at the Pan American Union building for members of Congress to give the legislators an opportunity to meet Mr. Balfour and the members of his party.

The various conferences will be held in the departments interested and all departments concerned now are selecting the officials who will confer with the visitors.

MM. BERNHARDT BETTER.

New York, April 19.—Marked improvement in the condition of Mme. Sarah Bernhardt, who is critically ill in Mount Sinai Hospital, was reported tonight. The famous actress spent a comfortable day and was bright and cheerful. The operation performed Tuesday night may save her life. At 8 o'clock tonight the following official statement was authorized by her physicians:

"There has been definite improvement in Mrs. Bernhardt's condition during the past twenty-four hours."



SENATORS ASSAIL "SAVING FRENZY" MENACES NATION

Censorship Provisions of Espionage Bill Denounced in Upper Chamber.

The censorship provisions of the Espionage Bill came under the barrage fire from all quarters of the Senate and from the representatives of both political parties in that body yesterday.

Condemnation of the restrictive provisions of the proposed law and of the drastic penalties which it carries was voiced by Republicans and Democrats alike. For the Republicans, Senators Borah, of Idaho, and Johnson, of California, led the opposition to the measure, while on behalf of the Democrats, Reed, of Missouri, and Thomas, of Colorado, expressed bitterly adverse views.

Cites Lincoln as Example.

In his opening attack on the censorship provisions of the bill, Senator Borah, of Idaho, said that the days of the Civil War for exemplification of the attitude of republicanism toward restrictions upon the freedom of the press. He said:

"In the days of the Civil War, when Lincoln was being criticized as no more than a public office by one of the great journals of the country, his reply was that the administration had better suffer some of the evils and sorrows which accompany such work than that the people should lose control of or forfeit the great benefit flowing from absolute freedom of the press."

Senator Borah cited the exposures published by Lord Northcliffe in the London

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VOTE FOR DRAFT SEEKS RUSH LOAN

Herald Poll Shows Strong Sentiment for Conscription.

Not even the ghost of a look-in did the foes of conscription have in the first day's balloting conducted on the issue by The Herald.

The champions of a selective draft polled more than 80 per cent of the votes. "A thousand times, yes," wrote one man on the bottom of his coupon, and the same sentiment was uttered in different forms by other voters.

"It's the only just and fair way," wrote another, and one letter signed W. J. J. said: "If Wilson says so, it's so. More power to The Herald and its great patriotic fight for right."

A general contempt for slackers and the inequalities of the volunteer system was shown by the balloters.

Among the few opposed to conscription, John Sampson, of 2423 Fourteenth street northwest, wrote: "My reason for voting against conscription is that it is undemocratic, un-American, unpatriotic, and treasonable. I might add that no just war requires conscription."

A civil war veteran, H. E. Warner, of 1223 Lamont street, opposes a selective draft "because it is grossly unfair. Why should certain young men be compelled to serve at a beggarly wage when others are left at home to earn two or three times as much in nonhazardous occupations? I think universal military service is infinitely preferable."

As a rule, those who voted anti-conscription wrote letters to explain their objections. Those in favor of it contented themselves with a simple registration of their sentiments.

Fear Russian Discontent Will Lead to Civil War

Petrograd, April 19.—Civil war static about in the Muscovite realm in the guise of patriotism. At any moment the long smoldering sparks of discontent may be fanned into flames that may engulf the whole country, burning it from within while foreign hammers down the gates and rush in to reap the advantages of internal upheaval.

So grave is the situation today, so constantly widening is the cleavage between the provisional government and the workmen and soldiers' delegates that those are no longer chided as pessimists and "traitors" who assert the March revolution was only the beginning of endless trouble.

FRENCH PUSH FORWARD IN SPITE OF 240,000 MEN ADDED TO ENEMY LINE

Twelve Divisions of Hindenburg Reserves, Thrown Into Battle, Fail to Check Attacks.

(By International News Service.)

London, April 19.—Part of the famous "Hindenburg reserves" were thrown into battle early today to hold the southern part of the redoubtable "Hindenburg line" against the ceaseless French onslaughts.

Twelve divisions took the places of the battered front-line troops, who had been hammered further and further back ever since Gen. Nivelle began his big drive Monday. But they were of no avail.

Irresistibly the Republic's army swept on, itself reinforced by and partly replaced by fresh troops, many of them mere boys of the class of 1917. And still the "Hindenburg retreat" keeps on, but no longer voluntarily, even the Germans now admit.

Two hundred and forty thousand Teuton soldiers—for that is the war strength of twelve divisions—made heroic but vain efforts to stem the French tide on the sixty-mile front between Soissons and Aubeville.

"Success everywhere" was the keynote of the French official day communique. On the Anglo-German front there were no infantry actions up to a late hour this afternoon.

Three Villages Taken.

Throughout the afternoon and evening until darkness enforced a pause, the French smashed forward along the entire front, principally north of the Aisne and in the Champagne. Tonight the Paris war office was able to announce that "under our energetic pressure the enemy continued to withdraw in the direction of the Chemin Des Dames. Three villages—Aisy, Jouy and Baffaux—and the Fort Conde, an important defense work, were captured, and the French 'kept in close contact with the enemy.'"

At the same time 300 prisoners were taken in a further advance near Hurlbise. To the north of that farm a German point of support fell into French hands. Here also, two cannon of 165 millimeters were captured. To the west of Bernercourt the French also pushed forward, taking about fifty prisoners.

Battle Royal Develops.

A battle royal developed in the Champagne, the coveted prize of the French being the German Meusevalley position. Here Gen. Nivelle's men advanced farther northward beyond Mont Haut and beat off two Teuton counter-thrusts.

As a climax to a day full of brilliant successes, the republic's soldiers carried a far-flung system of German trenches which joined the village of Aubeville with the Meusevalley wood. They thrust back the defenders to the southern outskirts of Vanducourt, taking 150 prisoners. Neither 700 prisoners are enumerated in the night report.

Meanwhile, the British toward the end of the day resumed their push to the east of Fampoux, making new inroads into the German lines. South of Lens they frustrated German bombing attacks. The British night report gives the total number of German guns captured since April 9 as 23.

French Push Onward.

Both north of the Aisne and in the Champagne the French pushed onward, beating off all counter thrusts. By nightfall Gen. Nivelle had pressed his lines from Chavonne on the Aisne more than three miles north of the river. For the first time since the battle of the Marne the Germans have been compelled to yield ground on this front.

Meanwhile, in the Champagne, the French have driven a powerful wedge into the Teuton defense system between Rheims and Aubeville—a wedge more than three miles deep. In the last twenty-four hours they stormed another series of formidable fortified heights in the Meusevalley sector.

Two additional German batteries fell to the French today, bringing the total number of guns captured since Monday close within the 100 mark. The total toll of German prisoners taken by the British and French since April 9 is now approximately 31,000.

Glorious Achievement.

The defeat of the twelve German fresh divisions is counted by military experts among the most glorious achievements of the French army since the outbreak of the war. The figure given also indicates the gigantic proportions of the battle now raging. It shows that an average of 4,000 fresh troops were sent to every mile of the sixty-mile front, making, together with the units left there, probably 100,000 men to a mile. This gives a total

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ENDOWMENT FOR PEACE WILL HELP U. S. IN WAR

Carnegie Foundation Will Lend Aid, Believing Move Will End Struggle.

Declaring that the only means of promoting an enduring peace among all nations is the relentless prosecution of the war against German autocracy until victory for democracy is achieved, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, swung into line behind President Wilson last night, and placed all its resources and strength at his command to aid in winning the war.

Dr. James H. Thompson, President of the foundation, tendered to the division of international law, the foundation, including its entire personnel, equipment, and resources, to assist the government in dealing adequately with the tremendous pressure of international business incident to the entrance of the United States into the war on the side of the allies.

The foundation's sudden change from a peace to a war policy was decided upon at the annual meeting of the board of trustees of the foundation, brought to a close last night. The meeting was marked by fervid speeches with pledges of unwavering support of the President as their keynote.

Thomas H. Rundlett ENDS LIFE BY GAS

Young Man Is Found Dead in Vacant House.

Thomas H. Rundlett, 28 years old, was found dead in a vacant house at 1147 Seventeenth street northwest, late yesterday afternoon by his brother, George, of 228 O street northwest.

Fully clothed, with the exception of a hat, and wrapped in some old bed clothing, the body was discovered lying face upward, in a second story front room in an old two-story frame structure. The gas from a jet at the west side of the room was turned on, the tip from the fixture being firmly grasped in the right hand of the dead man. Coroner Nevitt, who viewed the body, stated that Rundlett was probably a suicide. It is likely that an inquest will be held.

Investigation by the police brought to light the fact that for some time past Rundlett has been sleeping in the vacant building, which it is said is owned by his grandmother, Mrs. H. Rundlett, 2108 U street northwest.

Relatives and friends of the dead man say that they know of no reason for his act. He is survived by a wife, Mrs. Irene Rundlett; by a married sister, Mrs. Nora Donohue; a grandmother, and a brother.

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